

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EAE-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15

CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06

PRS-01 DHA-02 EB-07 TRSE-00 OMB-01 /061 W

-----121033Z 049439 /12

P 120843Z MAY 77

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7685

INFO AMEMBASSY SEOUL PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 6975

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR JA KS KN

SUBJECT: NORTH KOREAN DELEGATION ARRIVES IN JAPAN

REF: A. TOKYO 6532; B. TOKYO 6668

1. NORTH KOREAN DELEGATION HEADED BY AMBASSADOR HYON ARRIVED IN TOKYO ON EVENING OF MAY 11 FOR NINE DAY STAY. IN RESPONSE TO PRESS QUESTIONS AT AIRPORT, HYON NOTED THAT CARTER ADMINISTRATION HAD NOT YET CARRIED OUT "VERBAL PLEDGE" TO WITHDRAW US TROOPS FROM SOUTH KOREA, BUT OBSERVED: "NOT MANY DAYS HAVE PASSED SINCE THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THAT ADMINISTRATION AND MANY VIEWS HAVE BEEN EXPRESSED ON THIS PROBLEM. THEREFORE WE WILL PAY ATTENTION TO HOW THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION WILL DEAL WITH THIS PROBLEM, BUT THERE IS A LOT OF TIME." IN CONTRAST, HYON THEN CRITICIZED FUKUDA GOVERNMENT FOR OPPOSING US TROOP WITHDRAWAL AND FOR SUPPORTING ROK GOVERNMENT'S SUPPRESSION OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN SOUTH.

2. IN CONVERSATION WITH EMBOFF MAY 11, FONOFF NE ASIA DEPDIR KAWASHIMA EXPRESSED SOME ANNOYANCE AT HYON'S "POLITICAL" REMARKS AND NOTED GOJ MIGHT HAVE TO REMIND BOTH NORTH KOREANS AND THEIR
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JAPANESE HOSTS THAT VISIT WAS TO BE CONDUCTED STRICTLY ALONG "ECONOMIC AND CULTURAL" LINES. HE DOUBTED, HOWEVER, THAT NORTH KOREAN BEHAVIOR IN NEXT FEW DAYS WOULD BE SO BLATANT AS TO FORCE GOJ TO CUT SHORT VISIT.

3. MAY 10 TOKYO SHIMBUN PUBLISHED PURPORTED DETAILS

OF PRIVATE JAPAN-DPRK TRADE AGREEMENT TO BE SIGNED BETWEEN NORTH KOREANS AND HOST JAPAN-KOREA PARLIAMENTARIANS FRIENDSHIP ASSOCIATION HEADED BY LDP DIET MEMBER CHUJI KUNO. AS REPORTED, AGREEMENT WOULD LAST FIVE YEARS WITH TOTAL TRADE TARGET OF 1.2 BILLION DOLLARS FOR THAT PERIOD. AGREEMENT WOULD SEEK ESTABLISHMENT OF TRADE OFFICES AND TRADE FAIRS IN TOKYO AND PYONGYANG, DISPUTE SETTLEMENT COMMISSIONS AND AN EXPERTS' COMMITTEE TO PROMOTE BILATERAL EXCHANGE OF TECHNOLOGY. TOKYO SHIMBUN ARTICLE SPECULATED THAT PRIVATE FISHERIES AGREEMENT WOULD NOT BE CONCLUDED DURING NORTH KOREAN VISIT.

4. KAWASHIMA DISMISSED PROPOSED PRIVATE TRADE AGREEMENT AS "MEANINGLESS EXPLETIVE DELETED." IN CONTRAST WITH SUCH POLITICIANS AS KUNO "WHO IS PRIMARILY INTERESTED IN HEADLINES," JAPANESE BUSINESSMEN ACTUALLY ENGAGED IN NORTH KOREAN TRADE REMAIN DEEPLY PESSIMISTIC ABOUT TRADE PROSPECTS. MEMBERS OF JAPAN-DPRK TRADE ASSOCIATION HAD PRIVATELY EXPRESSED CONSIDERABLE PIQUE TO FONOFF THAT HAVING JUST REACHED TEMPORARY SOLUTION OF JAPAN-DPRK DEBT PROBLEM, NORTH KOREANS AND KUNO NOW CHOSE TO RAISE EXPECTATIONS WITH "UNREALISTIC" PRIVATE TRADE AGREEMENT. KAWASHIMA CONCLUDED THAT BOTH FONOFF AND BUSINESSMEN AGREED THAT BILATERAL TRADE WAS UNLIKELY TO IMPROVE FOR FORESEEABLE FUTURE. (1976 BILATERAL TRADE BETWEEN NORTH KOREA AND JAPAN TOTALLED \$167.7 MILLION.) SHOESMITH

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